



Woodlots centre stage at government house

All across the province, from Vancouver Island to the Kootenays, from the Similkameen Valley to Peace Country, there are hundreds of forest entrepreneurs – members of the Woodlot Licence program – carefully managing our Crown forest resources.

There are more than 800 licensees in the province who manage a small, but significant, piece of the provincial harvest. The great majority of these licensees are known, and admired, only in their community. Some of them, however, work more visibly on behalf of their peers with government and other stakeholders in the natural resources sector, representing the interests of their fellow forest managers.

For the next five years, one Woodlot Licensee will be thrust into the public eye, drawing much-deserved attention to British Columbia's vital, yet sometimes invisible, agriculture industry. Her name is Judith Guichon. And she has just been named BC's newest Lieutenant Governor.

Compared to other forest tenures, woodlot licences are unique. Many are in the interface between forests and urban or industrial areas. The diversity found in the many forest ecosystems in our province is reflected in the woodlot licensees themselves and their individual management philosophies. Many are ranchers or farmers whose woodlots are adja-



Judith Guichon, rancher and woodlot licensee, brings BC's natural resources heritage sensibility to the seat of government in Victoria as Lieutenant-Governor.

cent to or near their private lands, their family homes and communities. Numerous woodlots are purposely intergenerational. This alone ensures excellent stewardship.

These intensively managed, family operated tenures provide many valuable contributions to the province: forest and ecosystem diversity and resilience, community and social benefits such as hiking or horseback riding, a light footprint on the landscape, and a sizeable and positive involvement in the prov-

ince's economy.

You'll be hard-pressed to find a more articulate advocate for the importance of diversity, economic viability and ecological sustainability than Guichon.

Better known as a rancher and champion of the BC Cattlemen's Association, Guichon has held a woodlot license for over 20 years in the Nicola Valley near Merritt. Her highly regarded belief in "Holistic Management" of natural resources exemplifies the underpinnings of the woodlot program.

Managing in the short-term for the health of a 700-cow cal herd, and in the long-term for the health of her forest tenure, Guichon understands that each decision must be assessed for its immediate impacts, and those that will take effect in 20 or 100 years. Her ability to balance the economic imperatives, the social

values for the citizens who share the forest and rangeland, and the future health of each "eco-system block," as she describes them, has captured the attention and admiration of peers and politicians at the civic, provincial and federal level.

Her tenure as BC's representative for the Crown will most certainly shine a much-needed, very positive light on ranchers, farmers and natural resource managers taking care of BC's Crown resources.

Dore's commitment to the land recognized

British Columbia woodlot Licensee George Dore has been named tops in the province for 2012.

Excellence in forest management on a woodlot licence is recognized each year by the Minister of Forests, Lands and Natural Resource Operations by an Award of Excellence for Woodlot Management. Three regional awards are handed out, as well as an overall provincial winner. The award criteria are based on three areas of management: site productivity (i.e. planting better stock), improved utilization of wood and administrative streamlining.

Dore, the Southern Interior regional award winner, was chosen as BC's best in the province this year. Dore has managed a woodlot in the Boundary area since 1989 and is known for his loyalty and dedication to sustainable harvesting and long-term stewardship for his own woodlot and for others in the local area, as well as for his support of woodlot activities province wide.

He has shown success in maintaining and improving site productivity through hard work, using difficult site locations that needed to be prepared and planted multiple times before they became productive. Dore knows the importance of local wildlife and is involved in creating habitat for deer herds through pruning and by grass seeding areas of his woodlot suitable for deer.

"Over the years, George has continued to move forward and adapt to changes that affect his woodlot and woodlot operations around BC," says Mark Clark, President of the Federation of BC Woodlot Associations. "Being open to new ideas and technology helps ensure his operation stays current and continues to provide economic, social and recreational benefits."

Dore is also president of the Boundary



George Dore and Deb Hartland discuss the epicormic knots that are shown here and the value of communicating first hand experience to scalers and log buyers.

Woodlot Association and recently organized the Boundary Woodlot Association summer meeting, providing extension for its members at an outdoor classroom – Woodlot #475 in the Christian Valley.

It included a Professional Engineer who performed an audit (similar to ones he does for the Forest Practices Board) on a steel bridge recently installed on the woodlot licence.

A Professional Forester and a Tree Planting Contractor also gave a presentation, and a

Professional Wildlife Biologist talked about the importance of woodpeckers and their diminishing habitats.

John Slater, MLA for Boundary-Similkameen, summed up Dore's excellence in woodlot management when he said "the Province's Woodlot Licence Program continues to see the benefits of George's willingness to share his knowledge and past experiences. His enthusiasm and openness to change is a leading example to other woodlot licensees of an exemplary woodlot manager."



PHOTO BY WIM TEWINKLE

Merry Christmas!

Wishing you all the happiness of the Christmas Season and Best Wishes for the New Year



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